



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Man Sentenced To 45 Years For Sexual Abuse, Crimes Took Place For About 10 Years**

WASHINGTON - Gregory Simmons, 47, was sentenced today to 45 years of incarceration for sexually abusing three relatives over the course of their formative years, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen announced.

Simmons, of the District, was found guilty on June 4, 2010 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of first degree sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances, attempted first degree sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances, three counts of first degree child sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances and two counts of incest. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant repeatedly sexually abused four relatives for about 10 years. The three youngest victims were particularly vulnerable. The government was unable to bring charges involving the oldest victim due to the applicable statute of limitations at the time of the disclosure. The government's evidence found that, in abusing the victims, Simmons repeatedly told them not to tell. The victims disclosed, after years of abuse, to an older relative in August 2008.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of the Metropolitan Police Department, citing the efforts of MPD Detectives James Goldring and Kim Holland. He also praised the work of paralegal Eugena Johnson and legal assistant Nicole Lee. U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of victim advocate Veronica Vaughan who worked closely over a long period of time with the victims of this very difficult case and Child Forensic Interviewer Karen Giannakoulis who conducted interviews with three of the victims. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark O'Brien and Ari Redbord who prosecuted the case.